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TRANSFERRING ENCRYPTED
PACKETS OVER A PUBLIC NETWORK

Abstract

5 The invention features receiving encrypted network packets sent over a network at a network interface computer, and passing the encrypted network packets to a computer on an internal network.

10 The invention also features receiving encrypted network packets at a first computer over a network from a second computer, examining a field in each network packet to determine which of a plurality of encryption algorithms was used to encrypt the network packet, and decrypting the network packet in accordance with the determined encryption algorithm.

15 The invention further features receiving network packets sent over a network, determining which virtual tunnel each network packet was sent over, and routing each network packet to a destination computer in accordance with the determined virtual tunnel.

20 The invention features encrypting network packets at a computer connected to an internal network, passing the encrypted network packet over the internal network to a public network interface computer, and passing the encrypted network packet over a public network connected to the
25 network interface computer.

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3/98/ 30 ~~The invention features receiving network packets sent over a network, determining which virtual tunnel each network packet was sent over, and determining whether a source computer that sent each network packet is authorized to send network packets over the determined virtual tunnel.~~

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